

What is claimed is:

1. A service providing apparatus,

comprising:

program inputting means for inputting a
server program for executing a service;

program activating means for activating the
server program;

program executing means for executing the
server program;

service condition storing means for storing a
service condition about a service that is provided;

service registering means for registering a
service to a directory along with its service
condition; and

communication controlling means for
controlling a communication,

wherein the service condition of the service
is registered to the directory along with location
information of a server that provides the service.

2. The service providing apparatus as set
forth in claim 1,

wherein said communication controlling means
controls a communication with a transmitting apparatus
through a bi-directional network.

3. The service providing apparatus as set
forth in claim 1,

wherein said communication controlling means

controls a communication with a receiving apparatus through a bi-directional network.

4. A transmitting apparatus, comprising:
communication controlling means for

5 controlling a communication with a service providing apparatus;

directory registering means for registering directory information received through said communication controlling means;

10 directory storing means for storing the registered directory information; and

transmitting means for transmitting the content of said directory storing means to a receiving apparatus,

15 wherein information about a plurality of servers that provide the same service is stored to one directory entry,

wherein a server selection algorithm corresponding to the service conditions of the servers is added to the directory entry, and

20 wherein the directory information containing the server selection algorithm is stored to said directory storing means.

5. The transmitting apparatus as set forth in claim 4,

25 wherein the directory entry is identified by a service name.

6. The transmitting apparatus as set forth
in claim 4,

wherein the information about the servers
contains the locations of the servers.

5 7. The transmitting apparatus as set forth
in claim 4,

wherein said transmitting means transmits
directory information to a receiving apparatus through
a broadcasting network.

10 8. A receiving apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving directory
information;

directory storing means for storing the
received directory information;

15 directory searching means for searching the
content of the directory corresponding to searching and
executing requests of the user;

client activating means for activating a
client program for receiving a requested service
20 corresponding to the searched result;

client executing means for executing the
activated client program;

client executing means for executing the
activated client program; and

25 communication controlling means for
controlling a communication between a client and a
server,

wherein a desired service is searched from the directory and a server selection algorithm stored in the searched directory entry is executed so as to select a server connected to the client.

5 9. The receiving apparatus as set forth in claim 8,

 wherein the directory entry is identified by a service name.

10 10. The receiving apparatus as set forth in claim 8,

 wherein the directory entry contains the locations of the servers.

15 11. The receiving apparatus as set forth in claim 8,

 wherein the server selection algorithm is executed with reference to service conditions of the directory entry.

20 12. A receiving method, comprising the steps of:

 receiving directory information from a transmitting apparatus;

 storing the received directory information;

25 searching the stored directory for a desired service corresponding to a search request and an execution request of the user;

 executing a server selection algorithm stored in a searched directory entry so as to select a server

